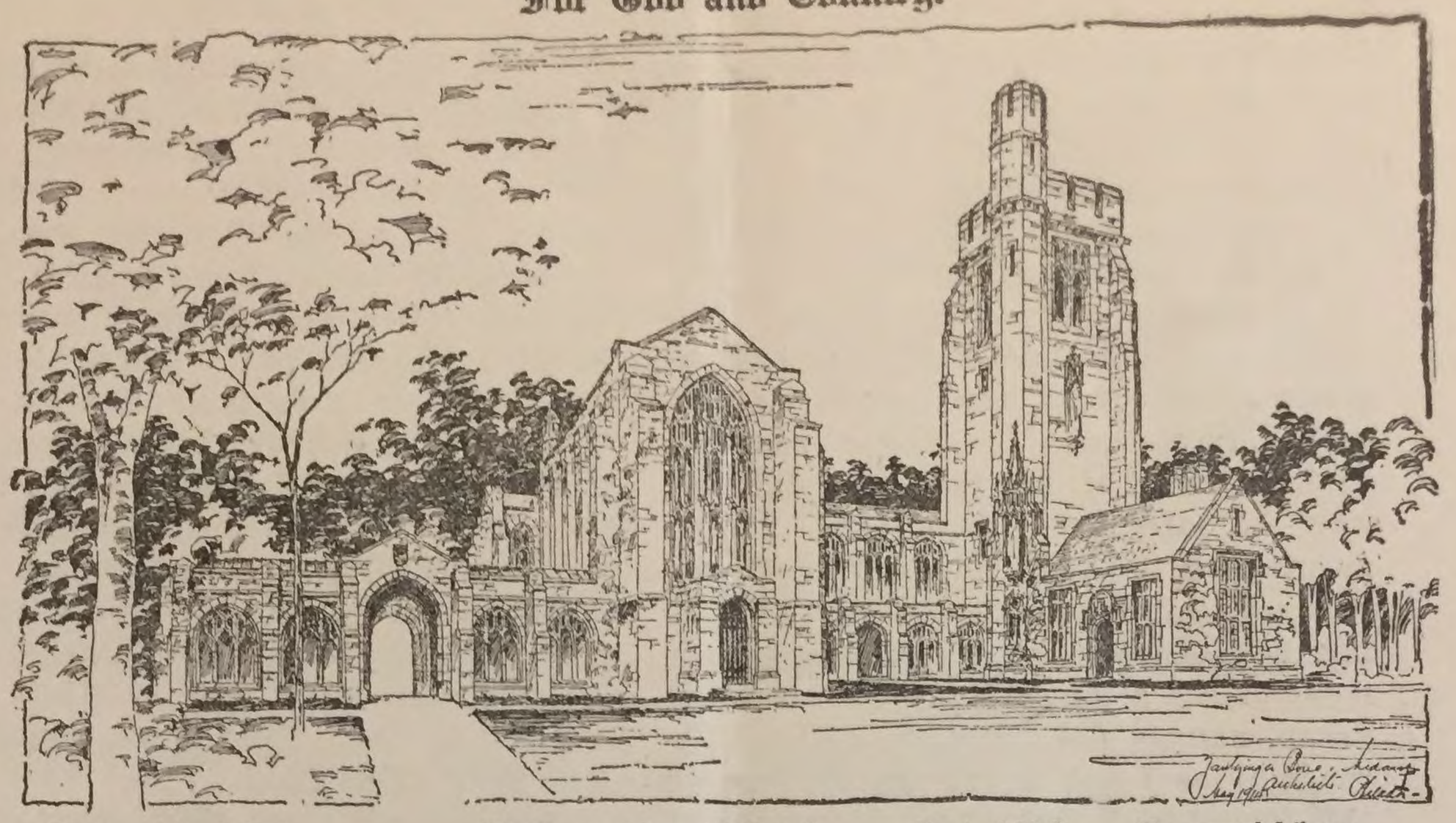
"For God and Country.



Cloister of the Colonies Washington Memorial Chapel Patriots' Hall Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A MONTHLY RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, Editor and Publisher. The Defenders' Gate, Valley Forge.

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Laus Deo!

The Washington Memorial Chapel will be completed within the next few months. We are able to make this happy announcement because for the past year the committee consisting of Stevens Heckscher, Esq., chairman; Dr. Charles Custis Harrison, Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison, the Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Garland, Mr. George A. Elliott, the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., and Mr. Joseph M. Rogers, secretary, has been actively engaged in the effort to raise the money for this work. At a meeting held on Saturday, January 9, 1915, at the Bellevue-Stratford, Dr. Charles Custis Harrison announced that the fund of $50,000 had been completed and was now available for the construction of the remaining portion of the chapel. It was unanimously resolved to instruct the architect to prepare the plans and specifications and advertise for bids.

In anticipation of this announcement the congregation of the Washington Memorial Chapel held a meeting on Saturday evening, January 2d, in the Parish House, after a delightful supper, adopting the resolution authorizing the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen to transfer the chapel property to the Rt. Rev. Philip M. Rhinelander, S. T. D., the Rt. Rev. Thos.

J. Garland, S. T. D., and Charles Custis Harrison, LL. D., Trustees, to hold the same until the chapel and other parts of the group were completed, when the property was to be transferred to the Trustees of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, subject to the conditions of the various trusts. The Vestry met immediately after the congregation adjourned its meeting and passed a similar resolution. This action was taken in order that the property might always be safeguarded from debt. At the meeting on the ninth of January, it was resolved to proceed with the work of raising the money for the erection and endowment of the second unit of the Memorial group, namely the "Patriots Hall." $50,000 will be required for the erection of this important building and a like amount will be raised for its endowment.

It is difficult for us to realize the greatness of this announcement. For years we have worked, and hoped, and prayed for this and now that we have reached the goal we can hardly realize what it means to have the work advanced so wonderfully. All friends of the Washington Memorial are grateful to the committee and especially to Dr. Harrison, whose untiring efforts and unflagging zeal have made it possible for Valley Forge and America to have this wonderful shrine. No one but Dr. Harrison could have carried on this work successfully in a time of general depression, when incomes were reduced and demands increased.

Improving the Grounds.

A great improvement has been made in front of the Chapel by the liberal use of cinders. The mud had become so deep as to make it almost impassable, and it was really dangerous for automobiles to approach the Parish House. The Rector called the attention of the congregation to the matter, and suggested that an effort be made to secure teams to haul cinders and make a safe approach. Mrs. Fred. J. Allen undertook to carry out this plan with the result that on Thursday, February 25th, teams belonging to the following hauled ashes from the Ehret Magnesia Works: Messrs. Nathan B. Hughes, John Mullen, Frank Quigg, C. Henry Stinson, Esq., J. R. Tindale, Wm. M. Stephens, Atherton B. Wadleigh and Charles Wells Walker. Other teams were furnished by Mr. Sidney Coates, Mr. and Mrs. S. Col. Summerill, Mr. Henderson Supplee, Mr. Colket Wilson and Mr. C. W. Wilson. The Rector, Mr. Fred. J. Allen and Mr. Louis Buler spread and rolled the ashes as they were hauled. At noon a luncheon was served to the workers by Mrs. Allen, assisted by Mrs. W. Herbert Burk, Mrs. S. Col. Summerill, Miss Mary M. Hibbs, Mrs. Charles M. Todd, Miss Lizzie Sohn and Miss Emily Wadleigh.

This one day's work shows what can be done through the co-operation of the members and friends of the Parish. We are deeply grateful to Ehret Magnesia Works and to Mr. George V. Hurdle for the gift of the ashes and the arrangements for the loading of the teams.

The good work ought to be continued until the drive between the Chapel and the Defenders' Gate is put in first-class condition. If the matter were taken up at least twenty-five teams could be secured for the day. This would mean over one hundred loads, as several of the teams on Thursday hauled five loads.

The Memorial Windows.

A meeting of the Memorial Window Committee, of which Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison is the chairman, was held on Monday, February 15th, at Mrs. Harrison's residence. The committee decided to recommend the medallion form of window as being most suitable for the Washington Memorial Chapel. The Rev. W. Herbert Burk and Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., were appointed a committee to draw up a scheme of subjects for the windows. It was decided to ask for expert advice from historians and others in order to make the windows thoroughly representative of American History.

The Connecticut Bay.

The Connecticut Bay in the Cloister of the Colonies has been completed with the exception of the inscription. Its design is full of grace and it adds greatly to the appearance of the Cloister. Several patriotic societies of Connescticut are uniting in honoring the heroes of their state. There are only five more Bays to be built, namely, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. An effort ought to be made to have these erected this year in connection with the completion of the Chapel.

Washington's Valley Forge Letter.

The most notable gift of the Museum so far in 1915 has been made by the Honorable Simon Gratz, of Philadelphia, who is deeply interested in the development of the Valley Forge Museum of American History. At the Danforth sale held some months ago he purchased for the Museum the letter written by Washington at Valley Forge to Patrick Henry, who was then Governor of Virginia. We give the letter in full:

Head Quarters, Valley Forge.
3r Jany 1778.

Sir:

Col. Innes having staid a few days longer than he expected, it affords me an opportunity of enclosing you the Return of the Virginia Regiments which I promised in mine of the 27th December.

I refer you to Col. Innes for more full information, than I have given you by letter, of matters relating to the Virginia line. A valuable prize has fallen into General Smallwood hands at Wilmington, I have not the particulars of her whole Cargo, but there are three hundred Chests of Arms besides many other useful Articles.

I have the honor to be
with great Respect
Yr Excellency most ob t
Ser. t
Go. Washington.

Gov. Henry.

This was written when the soldiers were rapidly completing their huts. In the orders of the following day Washington said: "As fast as the men go into Hutts the Tents are immediately return'd to the Q. M. Genl. The Commanding Officers of Regts. are to see this put in execution."

This is the fourth letter in our collection written by Washington at Valley Forge. The Valley Forge documents are scarce and are becoming more and more so.

Flint Lock Pistol Captured in the Civil War.

Charles R. Maquire, Esq., of Wayne, has presented to the Museum a most interesting relic of the Civil War. It is a Flint Lock pistol made by Constable, of Philadelphia. It has a barrel eight inches long, of the blunder-buss type, with a bell seven-eighths of an inch in diameter. The pistol is thirteen inches long over all. The flint is wrapped in paper. The interesting thing about it is that the lock is tied with string to hold it in place. This was the condition in which it was when captured from a Confederate outpost by Major Joseph W. Wistar, 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, on a road halfway between Frederick City and Emmittsburg, in September, 1862. The pistol is in serviceable order, but there must have been a dearth of arms to make a man arm himself with a weapon of this character. Major Wistar, who was a client of Mr. Maquire's, presented the pistol to him several years ago. The weapon would be interesting apart from its historic associations.

Mrs. Sarah M. Molony has added to our collection of powder flasks one of pistol size, made of copper. It is stamped with the arms of the United States and between the shield and the scroll are two pistols crossed. The flask measures four and a half inches over all and is two inches wide at the widest part.

Washington Memorial Chapel.
Valley Forge, Pa.

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VESTRYMEN.

Mr. Edward H. Binns, Gen. B. F. Fisher, Mr. Nathan B. Hughes, Mr. Leslie Jefferis, Mr. Frank Quigg, Mr. S. Col. Summerill, Mr. Clayton Stephens Walker, Mr. Chas. Wells Walker, Mr. C. Colket Wilson, Jr.

Miss Mary M. Hibbs, Chorister.
Miss Mary Pugh, Organist.
Mr. Louis Buler, Sexton.

Sundays.

10.45 A. M. Service and Sermon.
2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Holy Communion, First Sunday.
Saints' Days, 9.30 A. M. Holy Communion.

King-of-Prussia:
9 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

The Valley Forge Museum of American History.

Curator, The Rev. W. Herbert Burk, B. D.
Assistant Curator, Mr. Reginald L. Hart.

The Washington Memorial Library.

Librarian, Mr. E. Russell Jones.

In the February number of "Das Evangelische Magazin" there is an admirable article on Valley Forge written by John Etjen. The article is fully illustrated, all of the views having been reproduced from Mr. Burk's Valley Forge Guide.

Easter Day.

Services on Easter will be as follows:

7.00 A. M. Morning Prayer and Address.
10.45 A. M. Holy Communion and Sermon.
2.45 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Class.
3.45 P. M. Easter Festival of the Sunday Schools.

At King-of-Prussia there will be Sunday school at 9 o'clock.

The Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Congregation will be held on Easter Monday, April 5th, at 8 o'clock, when complete reports will be made of the work of the past year. At this time there will be an election held for three vestrymen to serve for the ensuing three years. Nominations must be made in writing to one of the Wardens, not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting. Every member of the Parish ought to make an effort to be present at this meeting.

The Chronicle and its Future.

The Chronicle makes its appearance after an interval of several months. The Editor found it impossible to keep up the publication and do all the work required of him in the Parish, in the Mission at Gulph Mills, and in the Diocese. This has been a decided loss to our work. The Chronicle keeps the friends of the Washington Memorial informed of its development, and at the same time records the history which is being made by this great movement for Valley Forge. Since the Chronicle was established a large amount of material, valuable to the historian of Valley Forge, has been presented in these pages. Already the copies of the Chronicle are in demand by those who want to possess this material. Unfortunately the editions have always been small and the result is that in many cases it is impossible to supply back numbers. The early

volumes of the Chronicle are already excessively rare.

Beginning with this number the Chronicle will appear regularly on the 15th of the month. It will be mailed to all the original subscribers, and to other friends of the Washington Memorial. It is hoped that the subscriptions for 1915-1916 will be paid promptly, and they will be sufficient to meet the expense of publication. With the next number subscription blanks will be mailed, and those who receive them are asked not only to subscribe for themselves, but for those whom they think will be interested in the history and development of Valley Forge. The Post Office Department has been most courteous in the treatment of the Editor of the Chronicle, and it is hoped that the former privilege of second-class rates may be retained. This matter is now under the consideration of the Department. It would be a pity to increase the cost of publication, when the whole purpose of publication is to further this great patriotic work of national importance.

Miss Hannah Paxson Kirkbride.

In the death of Miss Hannah Paxon Kirkbride, which occurred on the 17th of February, the Chapel has lost one of its most devoted members. Miss Kirkbride was transferred from All Saints' Church, Norristown, to the Chapel in 1911. As a member of All Saints' she had given her time and means toward the development of the Chapel, and it was a real happiness to her to do it. Her bright and cheery manner won for her many friends, who mourn her loss. She took an active part in the publication of "The Chronicle," preparing it for mailing. Those days were always times of special rejoicing, because she felt each issue carried the record of a new advance in this great work. The Rector conducted the funeral service at her late home, 511 Haws avenue, Norristown. The interment was at Montgomery cemetery.

Col. James Rockwell.

Mrs. James Rockwell, of Washington, D. C., has presented to the Valley Forge Museum the dress uniform of her late husband, Colonel James Rockwell, U. S. A.

Col. Rockwell was born in Utica, N. Y., September 6, 1848, and was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1870. He was appointed second lieutenant, 1st Cavalry, and served with that regiment in Idaho, Arizona and California. He took an active part in the Modoc campaign in the early seventies and was recommended for brevet rank. After two years' service as instructor of military tactics at the Military Academy, he was appointed first lieutenant in the ordnance department in November, 1874, and reached the grade of colonel in that department in August, 1907. He was successively stationed at Lincoln, Dak.; Rock Island, Ill.; Benicia, Cal.; Troy, N. Y., and Springfield, Mass.

During the Spanish War he served in the volunteer ordnance establishment, first at Chickamauga and then at San Juan, Porto Rico. He was the first officer of his corps to volunteer. He was offered the command of a New York regiment during the war, but preferred to remain with his own corps.

Since that war he had commanded the Columbia arsenal, in Tennessee, for three years, and was then on duty at Frankford arsenal for five years. He was chief ordnance officer in the department of Dakota, at St. Paul, and later was assigned to duty in the office of the chief of ordnance at the War Department.

The Washington Chapel Guild.

The Washington Chapel Guild under its new President, Mrs. C. W. Wilson, is doing excellent work. Everything which it has undertaken, whether supper, or rummage sale, or personal endeavor work, has been a success. It has added to the Church treasury, and has deepened the interest in the great work we have in hand.

The Honorable William Uhler Hensel.

The death of the Honorable William Uhler Hensel was a shock to a large circle of friends. Deeply interested in history, the Washington Memorial appealed to him most strongly. Shortly before his death he had agreed to transfer to the Trustees of the property the woodland between the Chapel and the Defenders' Gate. This was part of his Valley Forge farm. Mr. Hensel saw that the property was incomplete without the addition of this tract, and he promised Dr. and Mrs. Chas. Custis Harrison that it would be transferred upon the completion of the fund for the erection of the Chapel. The tract is entirely surrounded by the other property of the Memorial.

Governuor Brumbaugh honored him by appointing him a member of the Valley Forge Park Commission, an act which gave real happiness to Mr. Hensel.

Mr. Hensel's funeral was a wonderful tribute to the man. Among the notable men present were four of the Governors of Pennsylvania, namely, The Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, the Hon. Edwin S. Stuart, the Hon. John Kinley Tener, and the Hon. Martin G. Brumbaugh. In closing his address the Rev. Robert W. MacGowan, pastor of the congregation, read the following poem, which he had written as his tribute to Mr. Hensel:

"Dear Friend, so soon must thou depart,
When dearer every moment to my heart
By fair exchange of thoughts and gifts of books
And tender trifles that the vulgar brooks
But with a passing thought, but yet to me
Meet symbols of an inborn sympathy.

"Oh, how I dreamed to walk with thee through glades
And glens of truth with youth to light the shades
Of age,—through by ways of the trodden woods,—
To roam and sit awhile where fancy broods,
In arching grottoes of the whispering trees,
To drink the nectar of the laden breeze.

"There in the stillness of primeval days
I fain would, seated where true knowledge pays
His homage, have heard thee tell o'er again
The rapid rise of nations, cities, men,
Anon the sad reminder of the years
When ran the rivers red with blood and tears.

"For thou didst love the land that gave thee birth
Knowing full well the farthest bounds of earth,
And thou didst teach her with prophetic fire
And serve her with a zeal time cannot tire.
When others sought baser prize to win,
Thy presence quelled the riot of the din.

"Master of words, the keys to ope the gate
Of wisdom, while the friends of folly prate
Around the city falls—thy magic speech,
Dread gift of nature, multitudes to teach
Of good or ill, awed to obedience all
Who heard in thee the voice of honor call.

"In early youth, when most begin to learn,
Thou wast the champion of a conflict stern,
With winged words the righteous to defend.
'Twas but the presage of a greater end.
Thy bleeding Country moaning in her pain
Awoke thy love, nor summoned thee in vain.

"Thy city home, fair Conestoga's pride,
When morning gaily smiled and eventide
Circled her towers with ruddy flame and star

Thou lovedst to view and wander on afar
By winding creeks and highways known to few
Where histories their treasured relics strew.

"To study in the murmur of the stream
The fitful breathing of the poet's theme,
To catch the secret of the trembling mist
Wherein the shadows heaven and earth have kissed,
And bear, through halls of time, the measured tread
Of painted warriors, sporting with the dead.

"Full on her bosom fair Savannah's tide
Bore thee to God—a haven deep and wide—
Soft as a child that slumbers in the night
So didst thou dream the darkness into light.

"Brother, farewell. In triumph hast thou passed,
Honored and tried and full of friends at last.
To times unborn a grateful land will tell
The record of thy faithful years! Farewell!"

The New Drawing of the Washington Memorial.

We call the attention of our readers to the new cut of the Washington Memorial which appears for the first time in this edition of the Chronicle. This was made by Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., the architect, as the result of new studies and designs for the completed memorial. Those who have cuts of the older drawing will notice that there is a change made in the Cloister of the Colonies, showing the driveway. This appeared in the first design as an entrance to a walk. When the first design was made it was proposed to include the rectory in the group. Mr. Burk deemed this a mistake, as it detracted from the memorial character of the group, and gave no place for the Washington Memorial Library. The new design shows the substitution of a real library building for the former residence. The most notable change has been in the elevation and enlargement of the tower. This is made as it should be, the dominating feature of the whole group. The new study has added to the strength and beauty of the tower, and no one can look at the design without hoping that the time will speedily come when this great memorial shall rise to its full height.

A Just Debt.

It has been twelve years since the original piece of ground for the Chapel was formally presented by Mr. L. Heston Todd. Mrs. I. Heston Todd and Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Todd united with Mr. Todd in this gift. The gift made it possible to begin the work at Valley Forge, and upon this site the corner-stone was laid June 19, 1903. There ought to be some permanent record made of this gift, and the congregation ought to place in the Chapel a bronze tablet reciting these facts. Heretofore it has been impossible to do this, but now there ought to be no difficulty in raising the money for this purpose.

Girard College.

The students of Girard College are helped in their study of American History by an annual pilgrimage to Valley Forge. This is always made in the Winter in order that the students may better understand the privation and suffering of Washington's army. This winter the date selected was December 29. The young men made a tour of part of the encampment and arrived at the Washington Memorial in time to have their luncheon in the Patriots' Hall. Mr. Burk made an address in the Chapel and conducted the students through the Museum, explaining the more important exhibits. The rest of the day was spent in visiting other historic places.

Our Pageant.

The Pageant given last fall was such a brilliant success that it is proposed to give another this spring. Mr. Burk used the last act of his play, 'Washington at Valley Forge," as the basis of the pageant. Mr. Reginald L. Hart's description of the flags formed a striking feature of the presentation. Shall we have another pageant? It means work, but work is inspiring in such a cause.

The Valley Forge Appropriations.

The Public Ledger reports that $188,150 have been asked for the Valley Forge Park this year for improvements and maintenance. In addition the bill provides for an appropriation of $5,000 for the expenses involved in the dedication of the National Arch. The Commission has been heretofore hindered by inadequate appropriations, but this year with a former Commissioner as Governor great things are hoped for by all interested in this sacred site.

Washington's Marquee.

By the first of March 17,059 persons had contributed ten cents each toward the purchase of Washington's Marquee. The significance of this statement can better be appreciated if we say that an army almost twice as large as that which Washington commanded at Valley Forge has passed in front of his old headquarter's tent. During the past twelve months there were 4,265 admissions to the Museum, giving an income of $426.50. At this rate of increase it will not be long before we can pay the entire $5,000 for the Tent.

The Trolley.

Work on the trolley has gone on slowly this Winter. The grading has been almost completed between the present terminus at Lund's Mill up to the western limit of the Park along the line of the River road. What the public needs is a trolley connecting Valley Forge with the Philadelphia and Western at Bridgeport. The whole line would be only about five miles long and would certainly be a paying investment if built honestly and managed economically. Before another Summer is passed such a line ought to be in operation.

During Lent services are being held on Thursday evenings at the residence of Mr. Henderson Supplee, in Port Kennedy. It is to be regretted that more of our members do not take advantage of this privilege.

Boy Scouts at the Chapel.

On Washington's Birthday the Boy Scouts of Montgomery and Chester counties held their third annual service in the Washington Memorial Chapel. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, assisted by the Rev. Edward H. Bonsall, Jr., Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Clifton Heights, who was present with his patrol. Mr. Burk made an address on Washington's preparation for his great work. The Chapel was crowded to the doors, as this is one of the most popular services at the Chapel.

"New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth."

—Lowell.